

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved process for isolation of withaferin-A from plant materials ~~and products therefrom~~, said process comprising the steps of:
 - (i) extracting the plant ~~material~~ materials in an aqueous alcohol extraction solvent,
 - (ii) defatting the extract, as obtained in step (i), with partitioning with n-hexane followed by chromatographic separation to obtain ~~withanolide~~ a withanolide preparation,
 - (iii) portioning out ~~withanolide~~ withanolide aglycones from the ~~withanolide~~ withanolide preparation, as obtained in step (ii), into a chloroform followed by evaporation of said chloroform to obtain a chloroform extract, and
 - (iv) dissolving the chloroform extract as obtained in step (iii) in methanol followed by chromatographic separation to obtain withaferin-A.

2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extraction solvent consists of water and alcohol in the ratio varying in the range of less than 100 % to greater than 0 %.

3. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plant materials are ~~material~~ is selected from the group consisting of dry and fresh biomass of plant/plant material ~~to avoid desiccation/ air drying induced variability of~~ withanolide contents.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 3, ~~prior washing of the dry material with water and the prior water extraction, affords two fold improvement in withaferin-A yield compared to approach of alcohol or aquated alcohol extraction~~ wherein the extraction is performed using a 60:40 methanol : water extraction solvent and the withaferin-A yield is about two fold greater than the withaferin-A yield obtained using a 100% alcohol extraction solvent and wherein the withaferin-A yield is about 30% greater than the withaferin-A yield obtained using a 50:50 methanol: water extraction solvent.

5. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the chromatographic separation technique is selected from group consisting of High Pressure Liquid Chromatography and Thin Layer Chromatography.

6. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extraction solvent ~~system~~ used is a mixture of water and alcohol.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 5, the wherein the chromatographic separation is done using Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) with a high resolution TLC system for withanolides including withaferin-A consisted

of comprising a plate running solvent composition of chloroform : ethyl acetate : methanol : benzene in the proportion of 70 : 4 : 8 : 24.

8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 5 1, wherein the percentage of water in the extraction solvent system is in the range of 20 % to 40 % and rest is alcohol.

9. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 5 1, wherein percentage of water in the extraction solvent is preferably 40 % and rest is alcohol.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 2 or Claim 5 4, wherein further comprising selecting an alcoholic solvent from for use in the extract solvent, the alcoholic solvent being selected from the group consisting of a water-miscible group comprising at least one of methanol, ethanol and others and another alcohol with compatible polarity, dielectric constant and dipole moment or any single solvent devised to have such chemical properties matching to the admixture.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 2 or Claim 4 4, wherein the extraction solvent system used is used for co-extraction of to co-extract polar ~~withanolide~~ withanolide phytochemicals selected from the group consisting of glyco-conjugates, withanosides, sitoindosides and halo-withanolides.

12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, ~~wherein the process provides further comprising providing~~ quantitative profiling of ~~withaferin~~ withaferin-A levels in at least one of botanicals, herbal products, phytomedicines, nutraceuticals and food supplements and using the withaferin-A levels to standardize at least one of the ~~for standardization of~~ botanicals, herbal products, phytomedicines, nutraceuticals and food.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein products from such ~~plants~~ plant materials can be in a ~~from~~ form selected from the group consisting of a powder, a paste, sap, a capsule, a tablet, and a syrup.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein extraction of withaferin A is from fresh herbs gives better recoveries and provides a withaferin-A yield that is greater than the withaferin-A yield obtained from dried herbs and is accurate *in planta* estimations in the solvent compositions developed for withaferin-A.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim ~~2~~ 5, ~~the~~ wherein the chromatographic separation technique used is High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and the separation is performed using a high resolution HPLC system for withanolides including withaferin-A consisted comprising of plate running solvent composition of chloroform : ethyl acetate : methanol : benzene in the proportion of 70 : 4 : 8 : 24 a reverse-phase column run with a gradient mobile phase comprising a solvent A (methanol) and a solvent B (water) each solvent comprising

0.1% acetic acid, wherein the chromatographic separation begins with 65% A and 35% B and linearly changes to 30% A and 70% B in 45 minutes and then reaches 5% A and 95% B 5 minutes later.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)